Raising of Platform Level at Gadag Railway Station

3537. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passengers are facing difficulties at Gadag railway station as the level of platform has not been raised after the gauge conversion;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to raise the level of platform;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation for opening of level crossing gate between Gadag-Betgeri during rainy season;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether there is the problem of water logging at railway over-bridge at Gadag; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Raising of existing main platform has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 14.75 lakhs during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, Level crossing has been closed after commissioning of a Road Under Bridge as a pre-condition for construction of Road Under Bridge on cost sharing with Municipal Corporation. Level crossing cannot be opened from safety point of view.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The repairs to the road surface, drainage, etc. is the responsibility of the Municipal Council and Road Authority.

Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express in Kerala

3538. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express is originating or terminating in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce any of the above trains in Kerala particularly from Canannore to Ernakulam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2431/2432 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express (weekly).

(c) and (d) 2431/2432 Rajdhani Express when diverted via Konkan Railway will also serve Calicut-Ernakulam-Trivandrum section.

[Translation]

Availability of Herbs

3539. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted in regard to availability of herbs in forest and hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Central Pharmaceutical and Aromatic Institute for meeting the demand of herbs in International Market and earning foreign exchange therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Botanical Survey of India has conducted surveys and prepared status reports for availability of the medicinal herbs in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Does to arise.

(c) and (d) Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed agro and processing technologies for diverse medicinal and aromatic plants which have been made available to farmers for commercial exploitation. Its efforts have lead to increased cultivation and processing of some medicinal and aromatic plants. Which besides meeting internal requirements are also exported, for example : Menthol Mint, which is now cultivated in about one lakh hectares in Uttar Pradesh producing about 9000 tonnes of oil valued at around Rs. 500 crore.

[English]

A.I.R. Station in West Bengal

3540. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of A.I.R. stations functioning at present in West Bengal and the capacity and area covered by each of these stations;

(b) whether any new station is proposed to be set up in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The Statement indicating the details is enclosed.